

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION EUR-12

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R 070655Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6086

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RO AO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN RECOGNITION OF MPLA

REF: STATE 303610

1. ALONG THE LINES REQUESTED REFTEL, AMBASSADOR CONVEYED TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PACOSTE JANUARY 5 US HOPE THAT GOR WOULD NOT HASTEN TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. PACOSTE PROMISED TO CONVEY MESSAGE AND TO RESUME DISCUSSION OF ANGOLAN QUESTION NEXT WEEK AFTER HIS RETURN FROM MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

2. IN RAMBLING FIFTEEN-MINUTE COMMENT, HE (A) GAVE NO INDICATION WHETHER GOR WOULD DELAY SENDING ENVOY OR WHETHER OR WHEN ONE WOULD EVER BE SENT; (B) CLAIMED THAT CONSISTENT WITH ITS PRACTICE GOR HAD RECOGNIZED ONLY ANGOLAN "STATE"; (C) SAID THAT GOR RECOGNIZED MPLA GOVERNMENT AS "SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE" OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE SINCE IT CONTROLLED

CAPITAL AND HAD BEEN THE ONE TO WHICH THE PORTUGUESE HAD IN EFFECT TURNED OVER POWER (AND THESE POINTS HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO AFRICAN STATES AND "UNDERSTOOD" BY THEM). HE APPEARED TO BE CLAIMING THAT ANY ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE TO ANGOLAN STATE, NOT PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT, IMPLYING THAT IF MPLA GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE REPLACED
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THAT WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM FOR GOR; (D) RECALLING ROMANIAN

EFFORTS WITH ALL THREE FACTIONS, URGED INDIGENOUS ANGOLAN SOLUTION AMONG ALL PARTIES WITHOUT "ANY KIND" OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE - BUT TO AMBASSADOR'S QUERY WHETHER THIS INCLUDED CUBANS, HE SAID INITIALLY PRESENCE OF CUBANS HAD NOT BEEN "PROVEN" AND DIRECTED SPECIFIC CRITICISM ONLY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICANS, BUT THEN WENT ON TO RECALL WELL KNOWN ROMANIAN OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND SAID GOR WAS OPPOSED TO "ANY INTERFERENCE WHATSOEVER" FROM ANY CONTINENT IN ANGOLA INCLUDING FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES; AND (E) DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY MPLA REPRESENTATIVES IN BUCHAREST (NOVEMBER AGERPRES LIST HAD INCLUDED TWO WITH RCP CC ACCREDITATION).

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE DID NOT EXPECT ANY IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM PACOSTE EVEN THOUGH HE IS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR GOR RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, WE DEDUCE THIS MUCH FROM HIS BOBBING AND WEAVING: (A) DESPITE HIS DENIAL OF "PROVED" CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA HE DID NOT REALLY ATTEMPT TO CHALLENGE AMBASSADOR'S PREMISE THAT HASTY GOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESENCE IN LUANDA WOULD SUPPORT SOVIET AIMS; (B) GOR IS NOT GOING TO GET OUT AHEAD OF AFRICANS, EVEN THOUGH IT WILL CONTEND ALL COUNTRIES HAVE LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN ANGOLAN SETTLEMENT, NOR IS IT GOING TO BE TOO FAR BEHIND AFRICANS IF THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MPLA. GOR WILL BE MONITORING CLOSELY FORTHCOMING OAU EMERGENCY SESSION ON ANGOLA AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONFIGURE PACE AND DIRECTION OF ITS NEXT POLICY MOVES ON BASIS OUTCOME THAT MEETING.

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